

1.913
E5Su31
Reserve

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FARM FIRE-PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

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Reserve

U.S. EXTENSION SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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★ SEP 23 1942 ★

U. S. Department of Agriculture

REDUCTION in our farm fire loss is a good essential at any time but in time of war it is imperative. Most fires can be prevented and should be. To prevent fires and eliminate this needless waste is the purpose of this campaign. There are two main principles: (1) Attitude of the people, (2) equipment and training.

The details of equipment and training are not a part of this manual; the attitude of our farm people is. Attitude is an intangible that can be swayed by any of several methods. Most of us have an attitude of "It can't happen here." Well, it has, and it does happen every day as far as fires are concerned. There is an average of almost 10 deaths every day from rural fires. Many of these deaths could have been prevented if these people had thought of fire as an ever-present hazard. The creation of this attitude of awareness is Extension's job.

All the tried and tested extension methods are being used in this campaign. When it is possible to hold meetings of the regular extension type, this will, of course, be done. However, for obvious reasons, we will lean heavily on the neighborhood leader system. To support the neighborhood leader, most county agents will want to issue circular letters, check sheets, newspaper and radio stories, and material of a like nature. Most of the pages of this pamphlet are made up of illustrations for direct mail work. You will find illustrations for circular letters, cover designs for self-covered folders, including the lay-out system in case you have not yet tried this form of leaflet.

You will also find some suggestions for wall charts which may be mimeographed, or used by your local paper as illustrations. Among the illustrations you may find methods and gadgets strange to your part of the country. These are offered for use where they are not strange and for adaptation when they fit local conditions. Among these is the fire barrel with its stack of wooden buckets inside. This is common practice on shipboard and enables each of several people to grab a full bucket as they run to the fire. You will notice the stress on outside locations for fire-fighting equipment, ladders readily accessible, and the suggestions for a fire-tool box outside the house or barn. The small pond or

dammed-up brook is another that is important. Water supply is vital for fire fighting, and the pond located near the house is handy for the newly organized fire company when it arrives on the scene.

A number of these pages carry colored illustrations. A suggestion for getting full red impressions is to use a silk screen rather than the dot screen in preparing the red stencil. This silk is listed as item 226 in the mimeograph catalog and is used by laying it on top of the stencil after the outlines have been marked with the stylus, then rubbing on the silk to pick up the wax. This provides a solid-color impression rather than the lighter-toned dot image ordinarily used. Care must be taken not to tear the tissue in removing the wax.

This campaign offers many opportunities for using window displays. A suggested display, using a model of the remains of a farmhouse, is shown in the illustrations. The model should of course be of the type of house most common in your county. Have it lighted with a red spotlight at night. If your local insurance agent has a set of pictures of burned farmhouses and barns, borrow the negatives and make a set of enlargements for the window. Char wood with a blowtorch, or get burned timbers from an actual fire. Use the theme, "Fires Need Not Start," supporting it with streamers like "How Long Since You Cleaned Out the Attic?" "Repair That Frayed Electric Cord", "Fire Kills While You Sleep, Can You Get Out?" "Fire Hazards Are Easily Removed, Ask for a Check List," "Hitler Will Be Happy if You Get Burned Out, Let's Disappoint Him," "It Costs You \$16 a Year To Feed the Fire Demon, Put Him on a Diet," "Put Fires Out Before They Start, Cheat Them by Cleaning Up," and similar slogans.

You can obtain cooperation from several local sources. The insurance agents will gladly install displays of one sort or another and may be interested in cooperative ads in the paper. They can supply you with figures giving the reduced premium for fireproofed farms. They will also have the fire-loss figures for the county from which you can derive your own per-farm average costs. Hardware and farm supply dealers will cooperate with displays and ads about fire-fighting tools. The schools will be glad to cooperate in presenting the message to children.

Your neighborhood leaders will need assistance in the way of literature to pass out at meetings or on home calls. Suggested copy for a set of check lists has been supplied to your State editor and engineers. This will undoubtedly be localized at the college by the extension specialists, and your editor may supply it in printed form. It is good psychology in passing out check lists to emphasize the fact that this survey is not for the Government but for the use of the farmer and his family, and they are to keep the check lists, not turn them in to anyone.

While your State office will be printing leaflets and bulletins, you can supplement these with local materials and local facts, using the illustrations in this pamphlet, combining them with facts adapted from State materials to meet local needs. Much of this can be sent through your neighborhood leader for distribution.

You may want to set up some discussion questions, supplying facts and figures for the neighborhood leader. Such figures might include farm fire losses in dollars, numbers of fires, average loss per farm in the Nation, your State, and your county.

Your newspaper stories and radio notes might well include details of the formation of rural fire companies, giving names and locations, and ideas concerning the adaptation of existing equipment to fire fighting. Interesting items from other sections might include some of these:

Most Maine farmers have a ladder built on the roof of the house to help in extinguishing fires started by sparks from the chimney. Sometimes these ladders are simply cleats nailed to the roof; others are made by nailing two-by-fours on the roof and nailing cleats to those. Occasionally a walk is built along the ridge.

Farmers in southern New Jersey have built small ponds near every farm to provide a source of water for fire fighting. The well-known Jersey mosquitoes are kept down by a light spray of oil during breeding seasons.

Midwestern farmers who are fire-conscious have cisterns not only at the house, but also at the barn to catch and preserve as much rainfall as possible. A fire engine requires about 3,000 gallons an hour. Unless the cistern or pond is large enough to supply the engine for an hour it should be enlarged. A cistern 9 feet in diameter and 9 feet deep, or one 10 feet square and 6 feet deep will hold about 4,000 gallons of water when full.

The Michigan Forest Fire Experiment Station at Roscommon devised a fire-fighting truck ideally suited to light sandy soils where the water table is high enough. The truck carries a 300-gallon water tank, a pump, and at the rear a hinged ladder used as a derrick for handling the well driller. The drilling rig consists of a piece of boiler tubing with teeth cut on the bottom end. Inside this is a piece of loose pipe with a small nozzle, fed by a hose from the pump. The water rushing out of the nozzle washes the dirt up through the boiler tube which is forced into the ground by the operators. In very light soil the 20-foot length of tubing is pushed all the way down in several minutes. A liner of light metal replaces the boiler tube and a well-point is dropped into the washed hole. The tank is refilled by the pump from the well before going to the next point on the fire line. When clay is encountered the teeth on the end of the tube cut a way through the strata, and the water removes the cuttings. This idea, while intended for forest fire fighting, is adaptable wherever the water table is high enough and the soil is light enough to wash.

The stirrup pump, so named because of the foot stirrup which holds it down, has been the salvation of England during bombing raids. Popular Science Monthly in its June issue carried full instructions for making your own. Many farm fires could be extinguished before they do much damage if every farm home was equipped with one of these pumps.

Hand and power spray equipment is easily adapted to fire fighting. There isn't much spraying in winter and that is when most farm fires occur. Why not suggest next fall that farmers move the hand sprayer into the house for the winter?

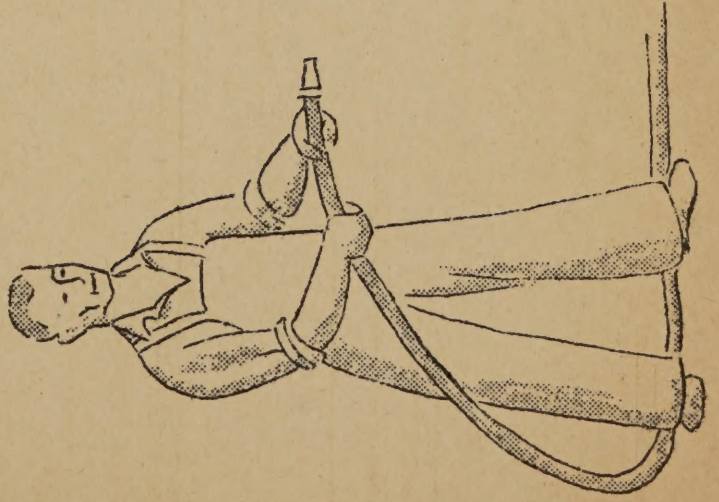
A couple of long two-by-fours, long enough to reach the roof, with one-by-four steps nailed on them, will be found leaning against many farm houses. This saves a lot of time if the roof catches fire, at least you don't have to hunt a ladder.

Other ideas of this nature will suggest themselves and will make interesting shorts for the newspaper column or radio chat. Don't forget that the home demonstration agent and the club agent can do much toward reducing fire hazards in their work with farm women and children.

Usually the attack on farm fires is divided into three parts: the farm home, the farm plant, and the farm woods. This gives us an excellent possibility to follow up our direct mail approach to the subject with separate mailing pieces.

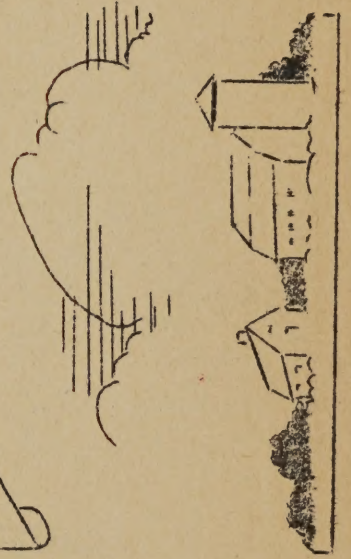
PREVENT

*Farm
Fires*



NOW
*more than
ever ..*

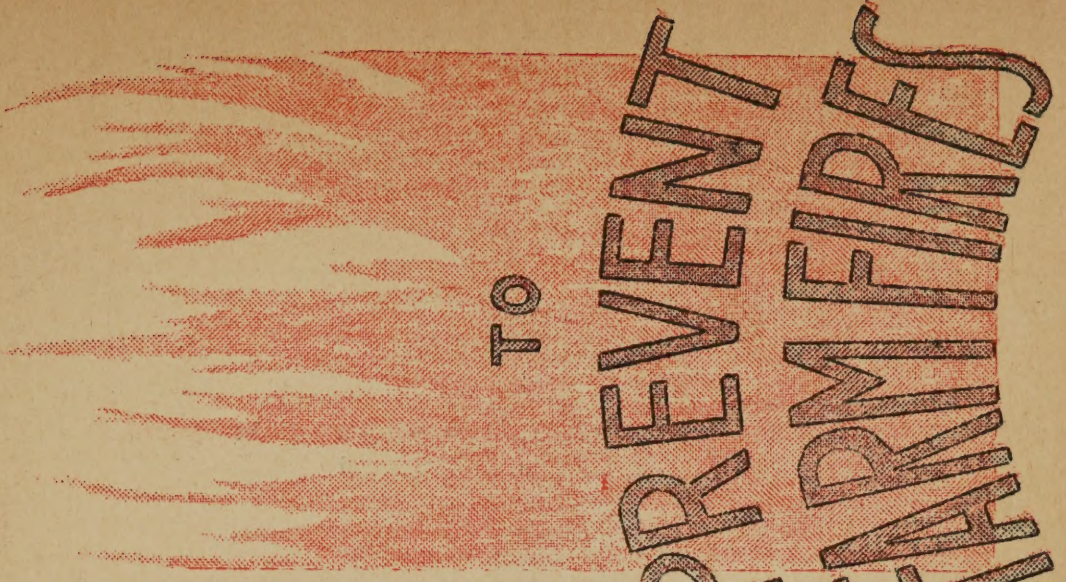
**PREVENT
FARM FIRES**

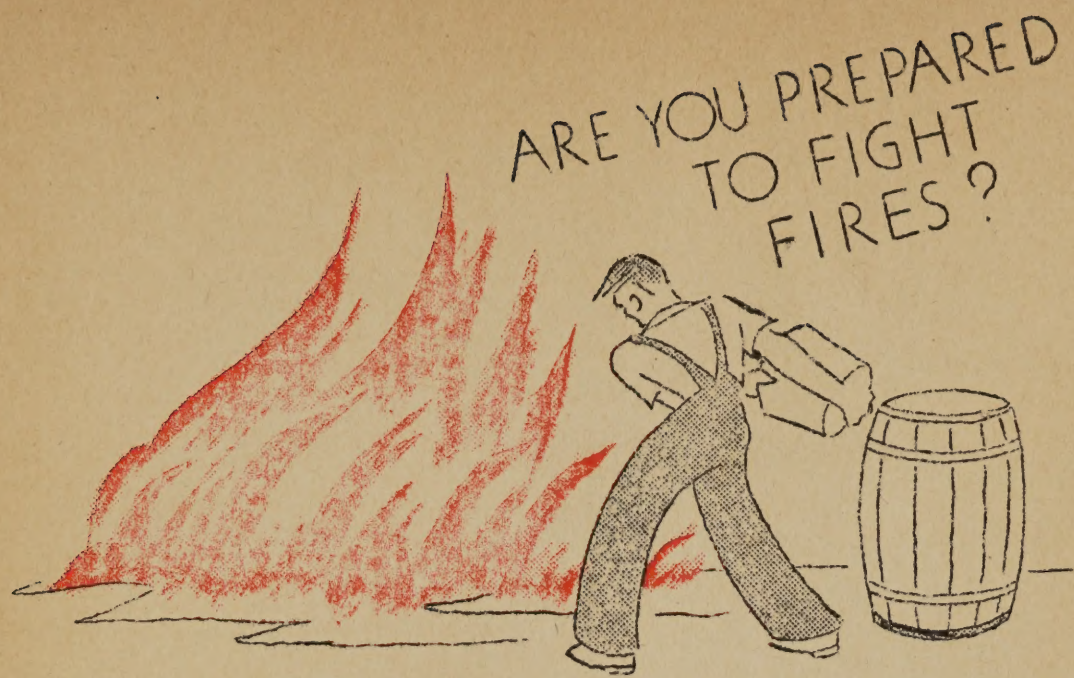


*Here's How
to do your part*

TO

**PREVENT
FARM FIRES**





DON'T PUT ANYTHING IN THE FUSE SOCKET—
BUT A FUSE !

DON'T USE LARGER FUSES !

DON'T OVERLOAD THE WIRING !

for **V**ICTORY
PREVENT FIRES

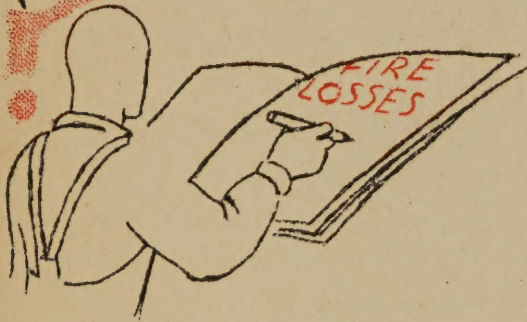
PREVENT **FIRES**



THE LIGHT
THAT DIDN'T FAIL



WILL THIS BE YOU



SHALL IT BE
YOURS?



LESS FIRES - MORE FIRING.



PROTECT YOUR FARM
FROM FIRE



DON'T SET THE STAGE
FOR THIS
VILLAIN!



REMEMBER TO

- 1 DISPOSE OF RUBBISH.
- 2 INSPECT CHIMNEYS FOR CRACKS.
- 3 CLEAN CHIMNEYS.
- 4 REPLACE POOR STOVEPIPES.
- 5 USE METAL FLOORCOVERING UNDER STOVES.
- 6 PERMIT NO SMOKING IN THE BARN.
- 7 MAKE LANTERNS SECURE.
- 8 PROVIDE METAL CONTAINERS FOR ASHES AND GREASY RAGS.
- 9 HANDLE GASOLINE WITH CARE.
- 0 HAVE LADDERS FOR ACCESS TO ALL PARTS OF BUILDINGS.
- 1 HAVE ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY.
- 2 CHECK WIRING. DON'T OVERLOAD.
- 3 HAVE FIRE TOOL BOX ON HAND WITH TWO LONG-HANDLED SHOVELS, AXE, RAKE, HOE, MATTOCK, ROPE, BURLAP BAG, AN OLD BROOM.

HOW TO KEEP OUT OF THE RED OF FARM FIRE LOSSES



FARM FIRE PREVENTION

THE FIRE TOOL BOX



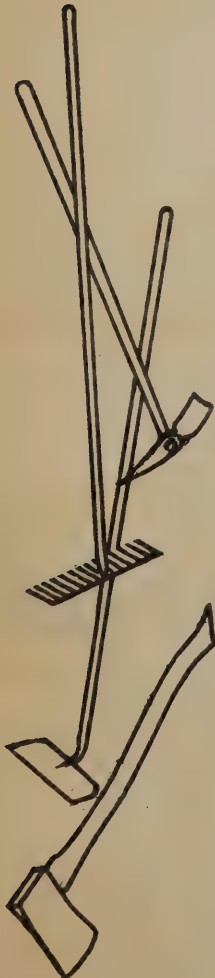
Dear Friend:

This letter has been prepared simply to show you how some of the decorative elements in this handbook can be combined and altered to provide a decoration for a letter. If you are equipped to do color mimeographing, the fire tools might well be run in red.

Consider your fire letters just as you would other seasonal letters such as those on spraying. As various hazards arise through the changing seasons, prepare a warning letter for farmers. In the early fall it is well to remind them to clean chimneys and inspect them for cracks. Defective chimneys cause the most farm fires, you know. In summer it is well to caution farmers about curing hay. And so throughout the year.

The fire-tool box idea is lifted from a practice of the U. S. Forest Service. The idea might well be adopted by farmers, by setting aside fire tools, painting them red, and locating the box in a strategic place in a rural area, in charge of a farmer who is trained in fire fighting. The box is locked with a seal that can be easily broken in case of fire, but which discourages "borrowing."

Another good idea is one that used to be practiced in cities. Each sleeping room was equipped with a stout rope, long enough to reach the ground, and fastened to a hook in the window frame. If fire should strike in the night, many a farmer will wish he had a rope by which he could slide to the ground. Suggest this to farmers.



FARM FIRE

Facts

Do You Know

that every day 9 or 10 lives are lost in farm fires in the United States?

that every hour 4 farm buildings are destroyed by fire?

that hour by hour this loss piles up to a grand yearly total of 3,500 human lives and 35,000 farm buildings?

. . .

Ninety percent of these fires are due to carelessness and could have been prevented.

**PROTECT YOUR OWN PROPERTY BY REMOVING EVERY
FIRE HAZARD**



YOU'LL SAVE MONEY
HERE IF YOU CORRECT
THOSE FIRE HAZARDS



FIRE INSURANCE

A HANDOUT
TO HITLER



HEY FRIEND—
YOU'D BETTER PROTECT
YOUR FARM FROM FIRE—
MATERIALS ARE HARD
TO REPLACE NOW!



IT TAKES WATER TO FIGHT A FIRE- HAVE YOU A SUPPLY?



*Hooks
at top
of roof
ladder*



A WORTH-WHILE STUDY



ANNUAL
FARM FIRE
LOSS
\$100,000,000

PROTECT WHAT YOU HAVE
YOU CAN'T REPLACE IT!



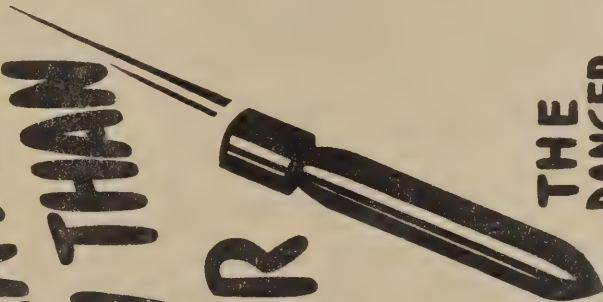
OUR DAILY
rural fire loss would pay
for 2 FLYING FORTRESSES

Don't be caught behind
in **FIRE**
PRECAUTIONS



Copy

**GREATER
NOW THAN
EVER**



**THE
DANGER
OF
FARM
FIRES**



**TIME TO
GET
TOUGH
WITH
FIRES!**



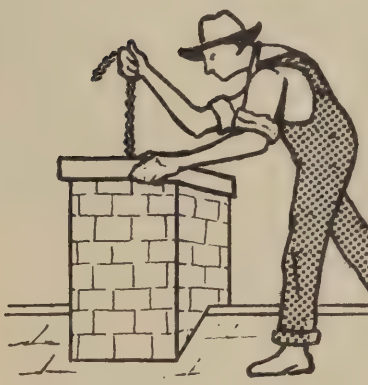
Defective Chimneys

stand at the top
of the list of
fire hazards

Help defeat **FIRE!**

CHIMNEY SOOT

is a fire menace. Clean it out
at least once a year. Looped
chains will do the job.

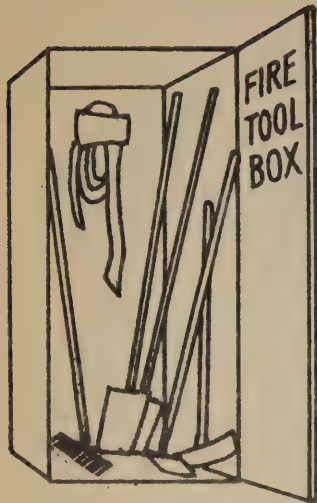


Spontaneous Combustion

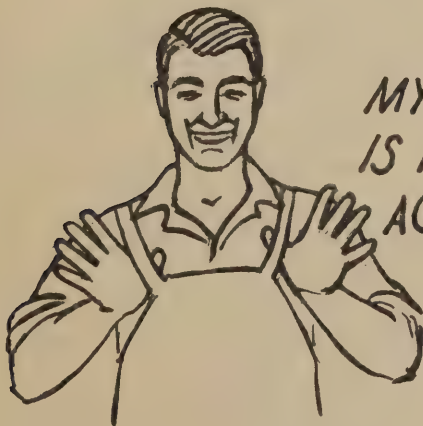
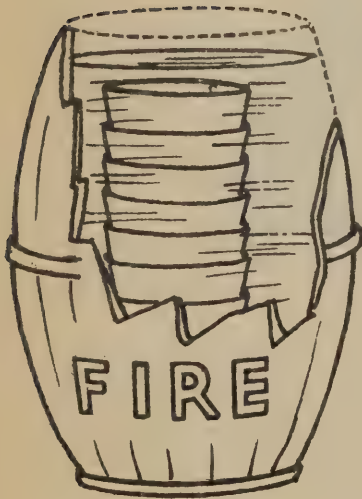
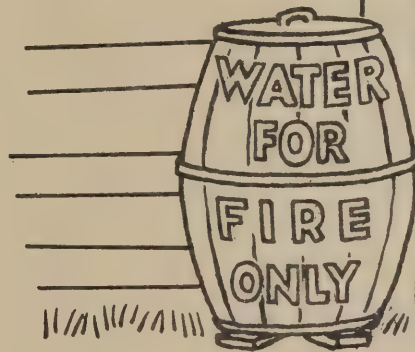
is another
serious
fire hazard



A perfect set-up for a fire that may start by itself!



*KEEP ONE BY
YOUR BARN*



*MY FARM
IS PROTECTED
AGAINST FIRE*

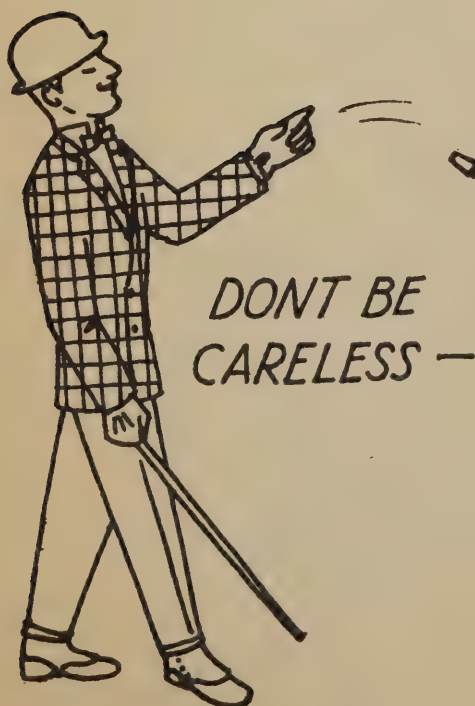




DONT TAKE A CHANCE



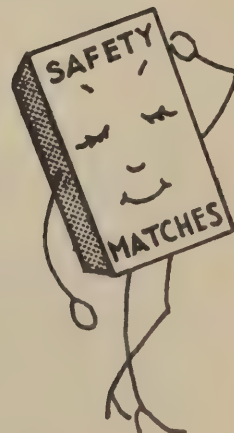
DONT LET THIS BE YOUR CHILD



DONT BE CARELESS —



NOT TO LIGHT FIRES



Do
not
burn

a burning question



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EXTENSION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

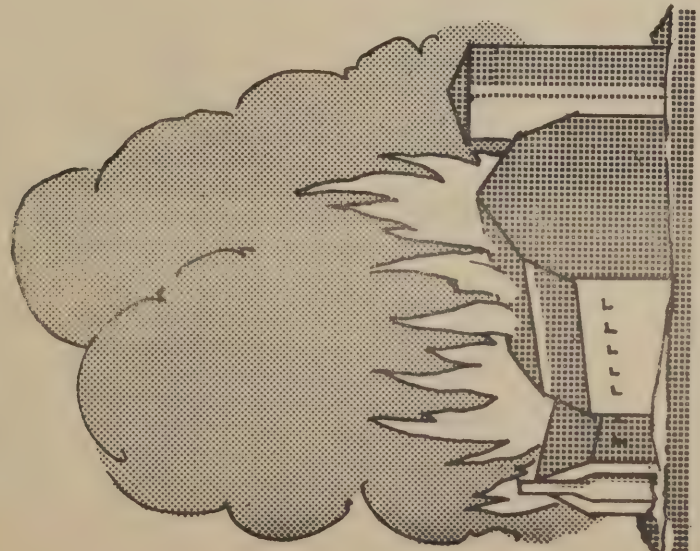
← this may be typewritten →

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

HOW TO DESIGN AN ENVELOPE-SAVING CIRCULAR



...in case of
FIRE



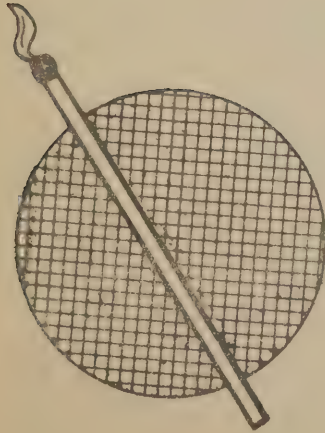
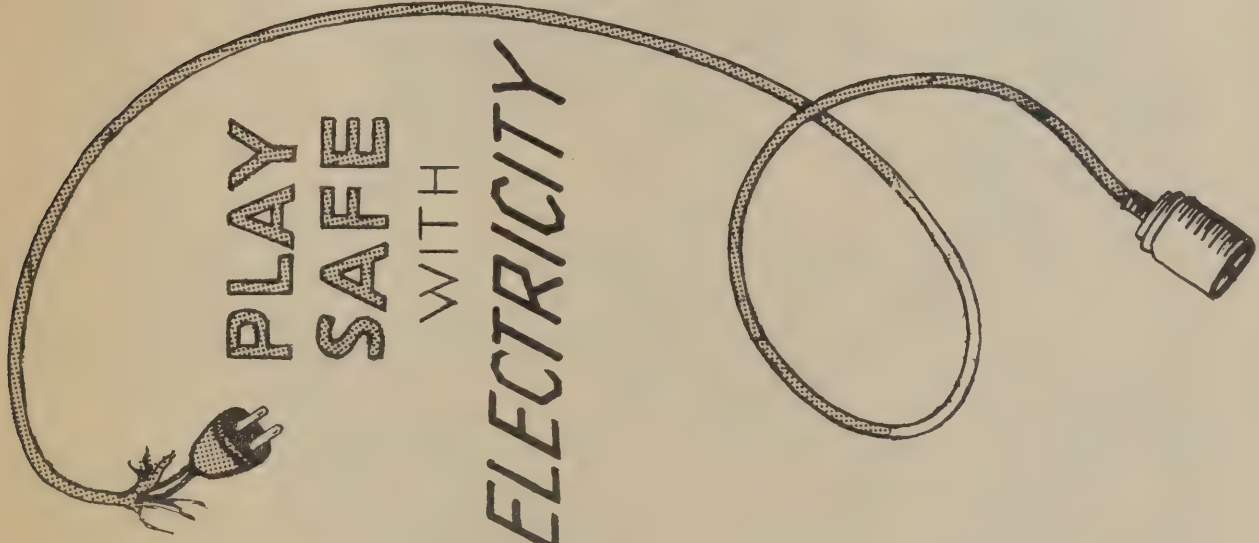
FARM FIRE *Facto*



PLAY
SAFE

WITH

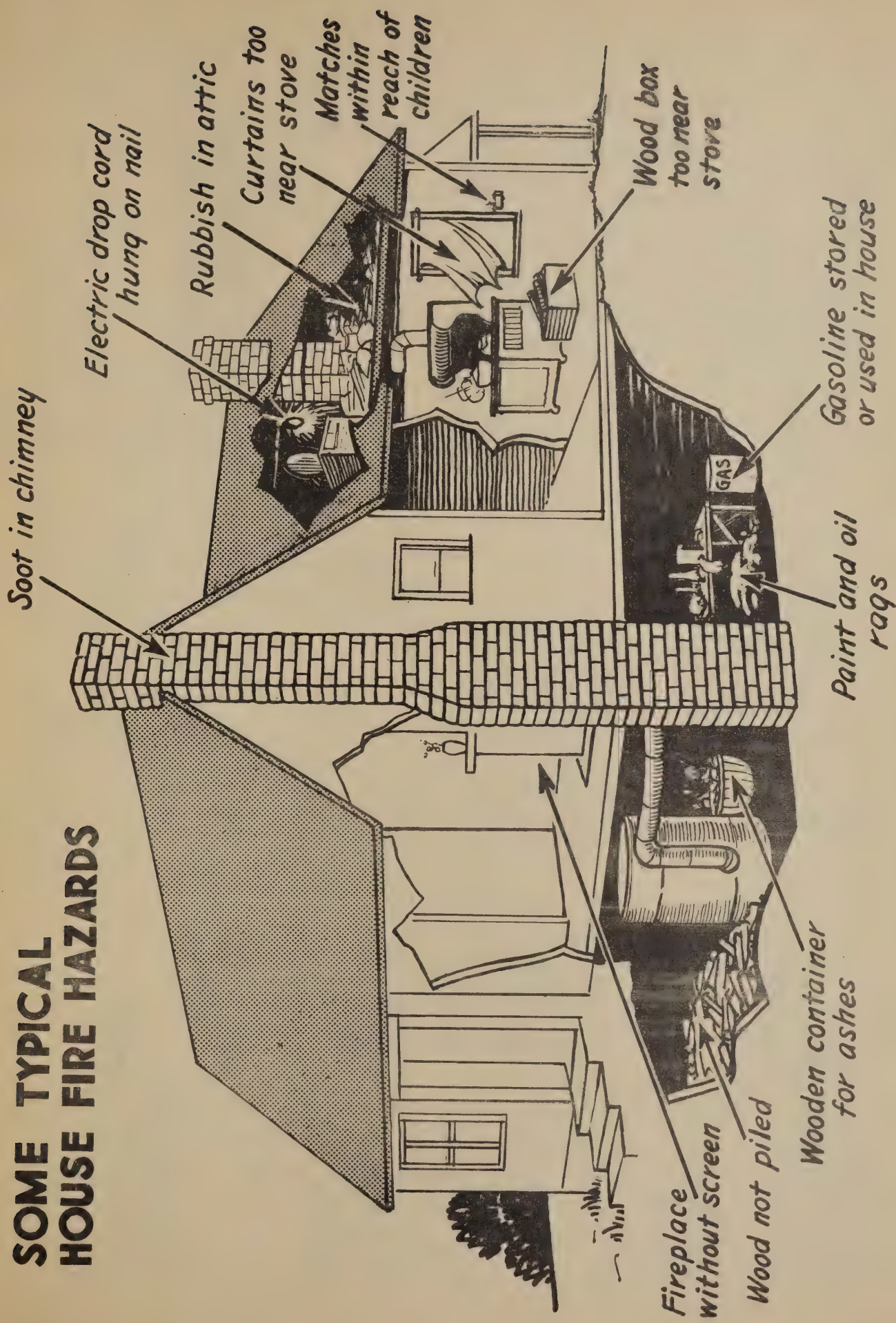
ELECTRICITY



TREAT
EVERY MATCH
as a possible
FIRE THREAT

PUT IT OUT

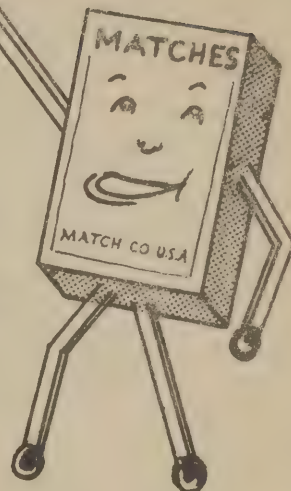
SOME TYPICAL HOUSE FIRE HAZARDS



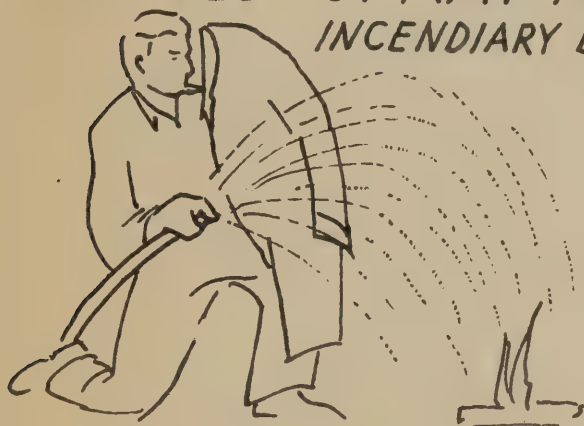


WATCH THAT BONFIRE

I DON'T WANT TO
SET THE WORLD
ON FIRE —
I'm just meant
to start a flame
on the hearth

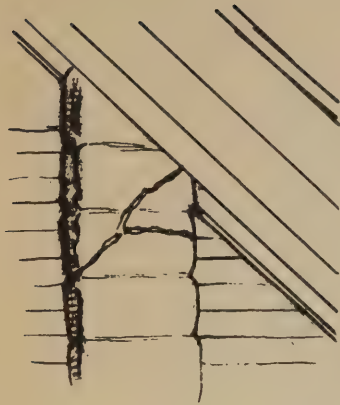


MIST-SPRAY FOR INCENDIARY BOMBS



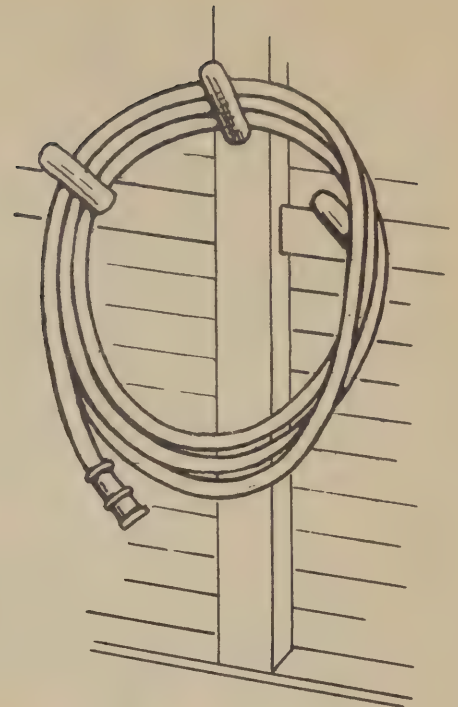
KEEP ONE HANDY





A

Chimney Crack
is a definite
fire hazard



TAKE CARE OF YOUR HOSE—
after using drain out all
water and hang under cover.

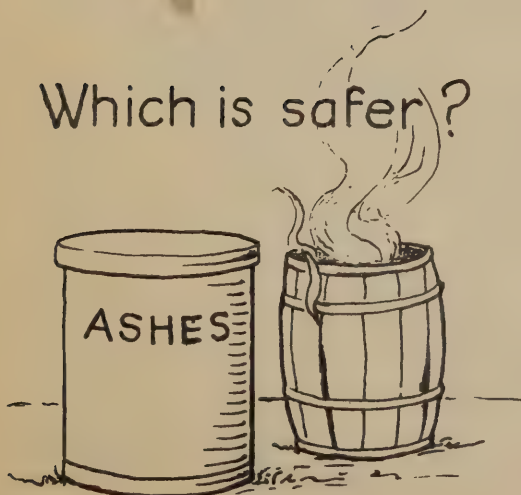


A firebreak for small grains



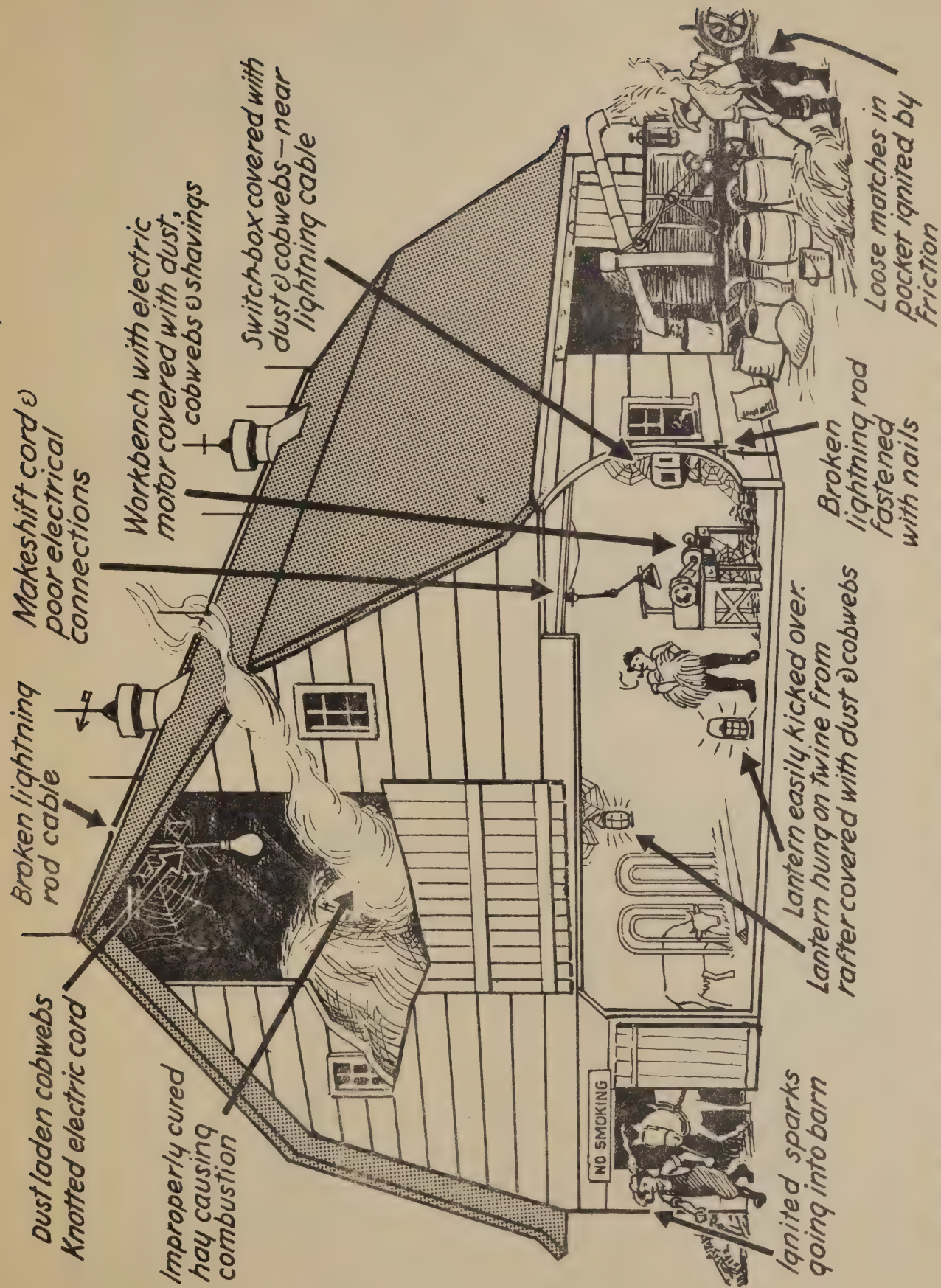
DON'T use kerosene
to start a fire

Which is safer?



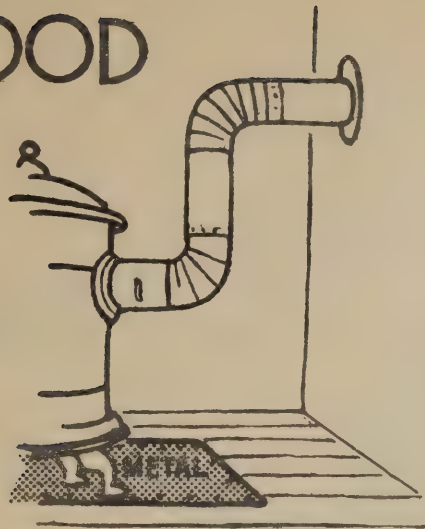
90% of all fires are /
due to carelessness!



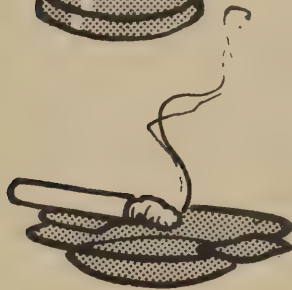


SOME TYPICAL BARN FIRE HAZARDS

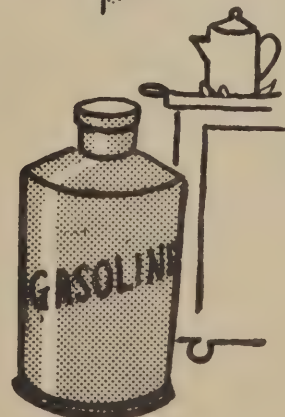
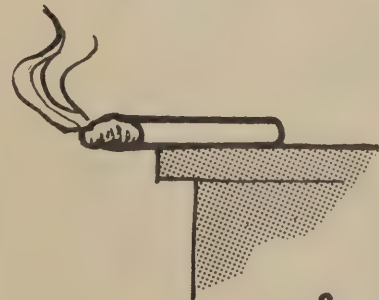
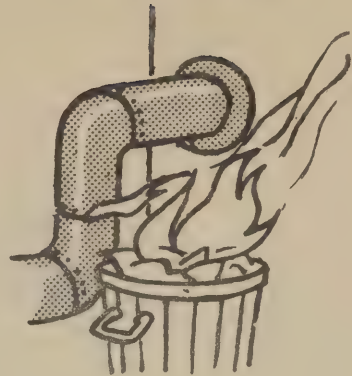
GOOD



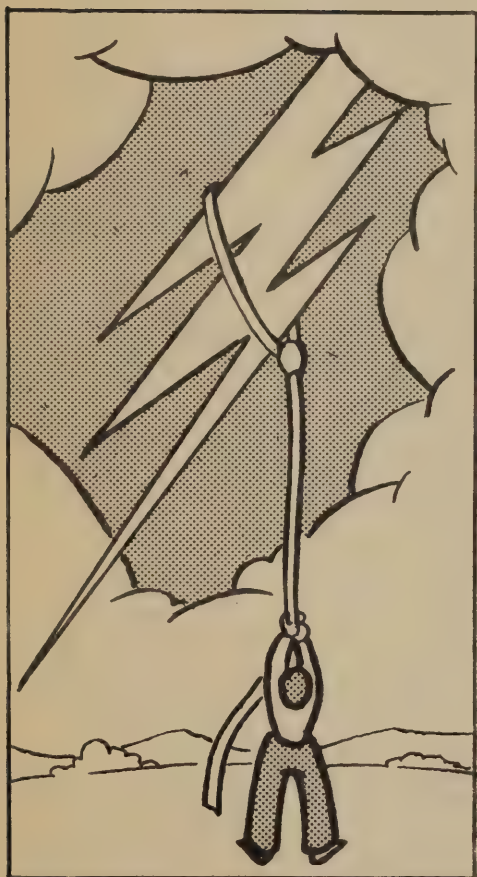
FOR
GREASY
RAGS



BAD

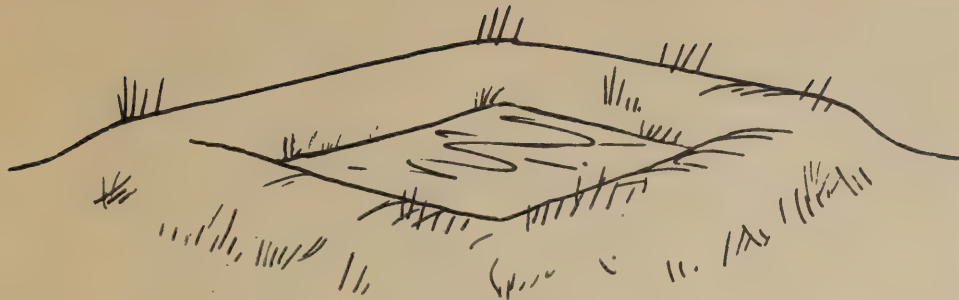


**ORGANIZE
TO FIGHT
FIRES**



**SHALL
IT BE
SLAVE
OR
MASTER ?**

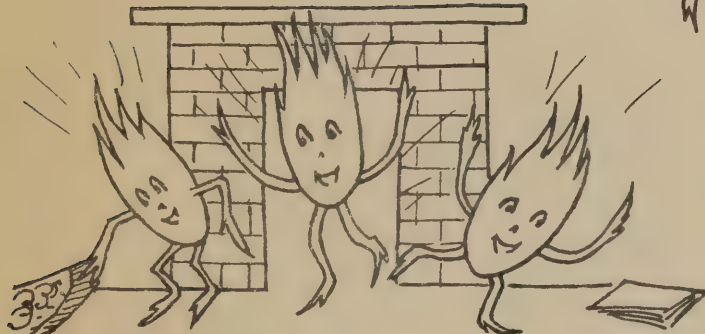




BUILD A FIRE POND YOURSELF IF
THERE'S NO WATER NEAR FARM BUILDINGS



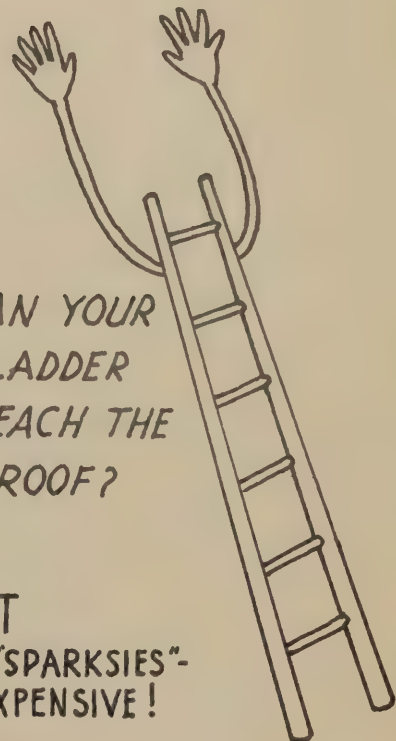
-A SPARK ARRESTER
FOR THE CHIMNEY



"SPARKSIES" LIKE RUGS
KEEP THEM IN WITH A FIRE SCREEN



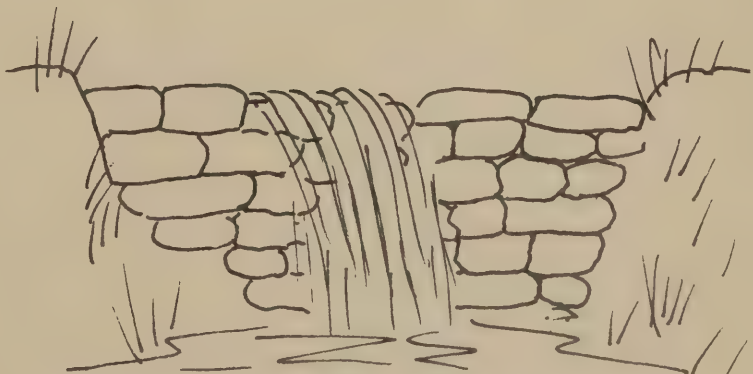
CAN YOUR
LADDER
REACH THE
ROOF?



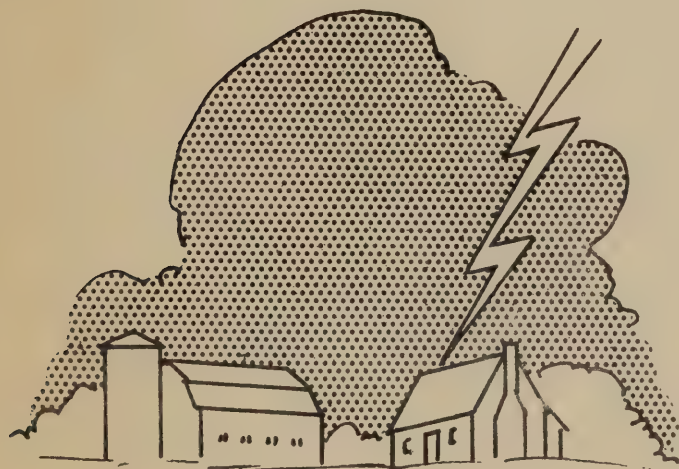
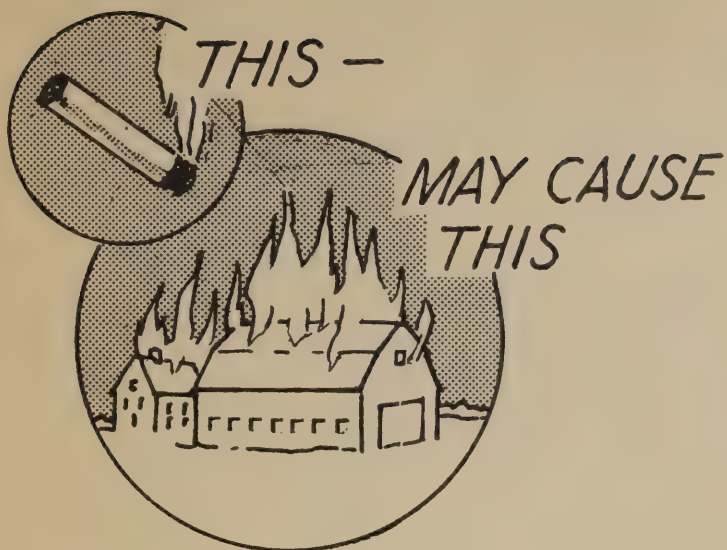
DONT
FEED "SPARKSIES"-
IT'S EXPENSIVE!

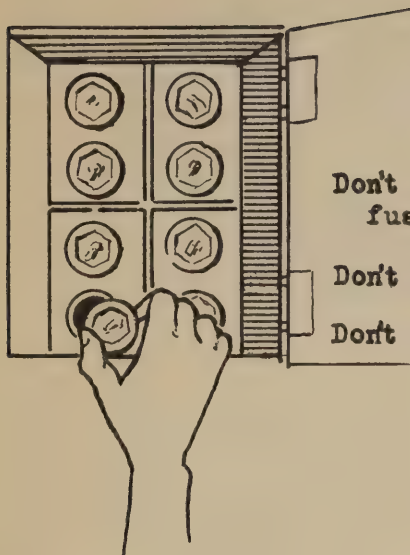


"SPARKSIES" LOVE LEAVES-
KEEP YOUR GUTTERS CLEAN



DAM YOUR STREAM FOR A FIRE POND





Don't put anything in the
fuse socket but a fuse

Don't overload wiring

Don't use larger fuses



Our Annual
rural fire loss
would pay for
6 MODERN
WARSHIPS

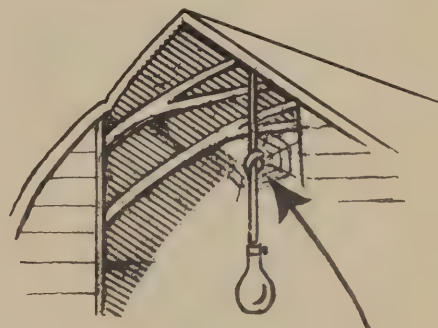
It's up to us !



Fires in barns don't just happen;
there's a reason

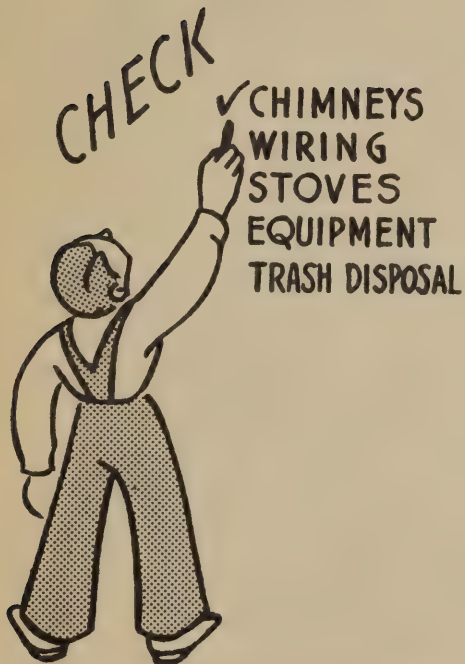


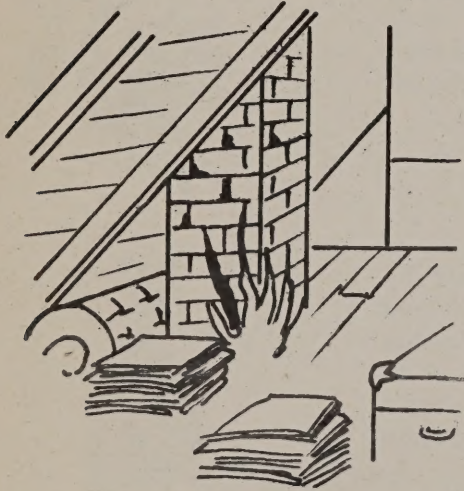
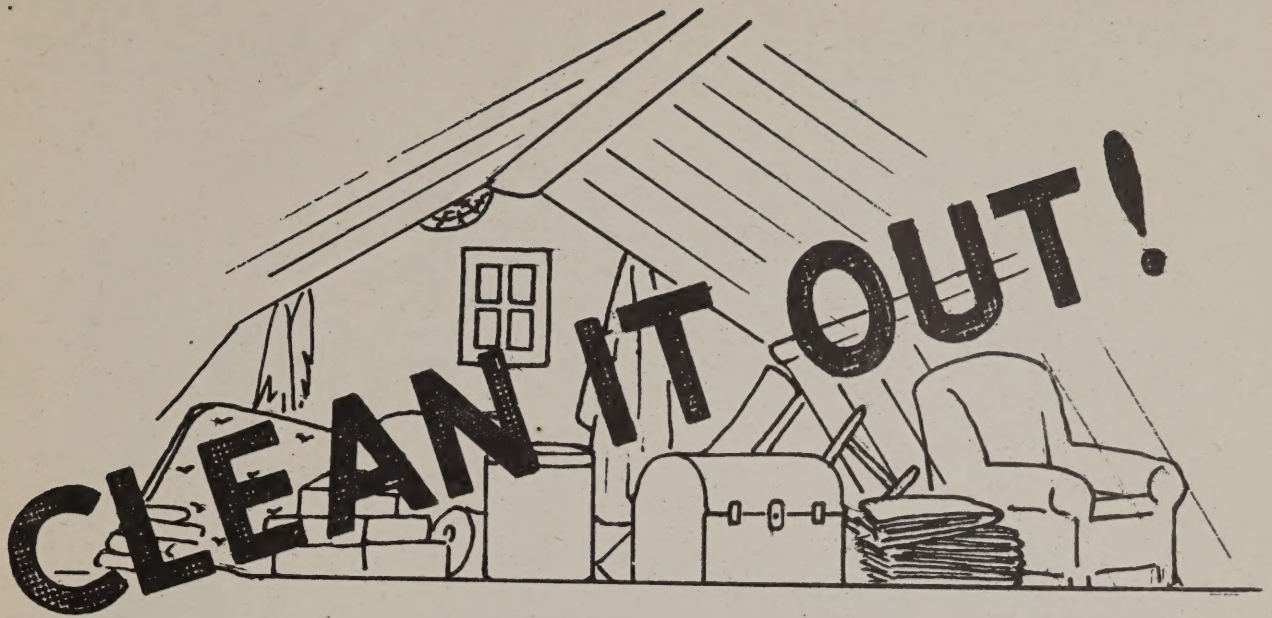
BURN RUBBISH IN THE OPEN
Don't let it accumulate in attic or
cellar



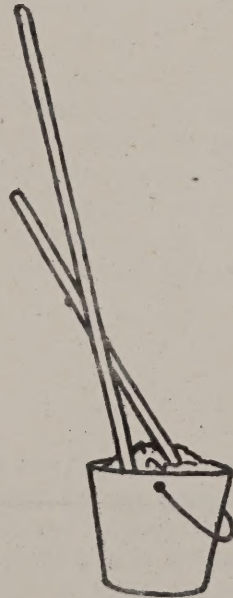
A fire hazard

FOR FIRE PROTECTION





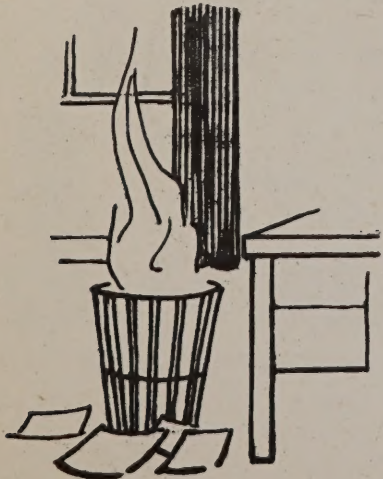
A DEFECTIVE CHIMNEY, TRASH
AND *FIRE!*



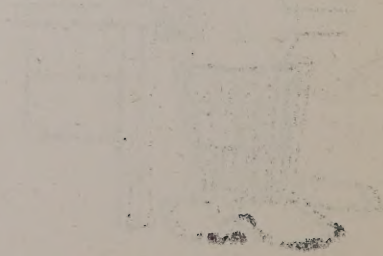
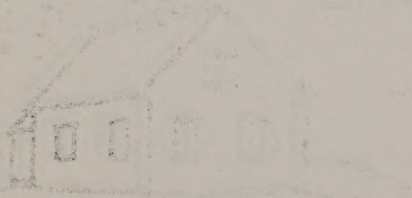
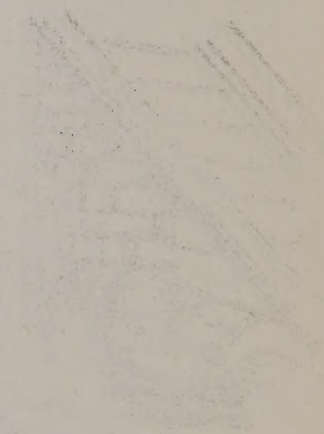
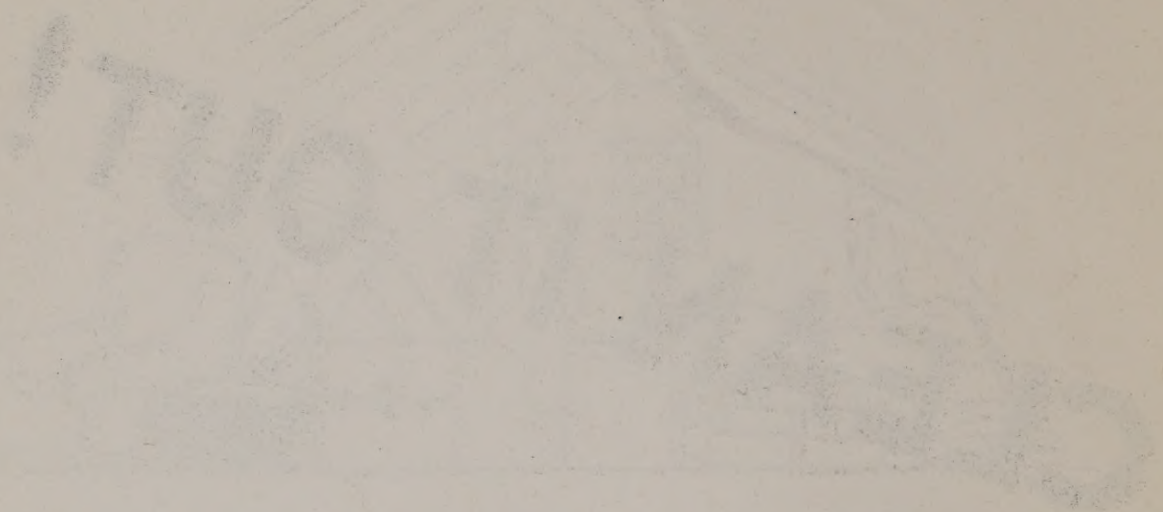
FOR MOPS AND
OILED RAGS —



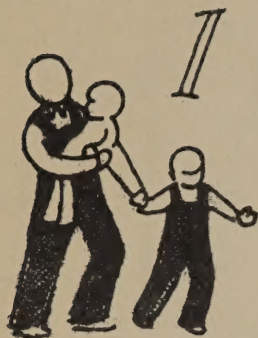
CHECK AND
REPAIR CHIMNEYS



STOP THOSE SPARKS!



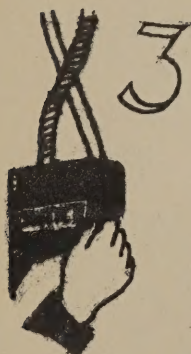
REMEMBER THESE FOUR STEPS



Get everyone out of the house. Let each member of the family be responsible for seeing that one other member gets safely out. This is like the "buddy system" used at swimming places. At the next family conference study all the possible exits, and make sure there are more than one.



Assign one member of the family to telephone for help. Have an alternate in case the assigned member is occasionally absent from home. If you have no telephone, use a horn, farm bell, siren, or other device to attract attention, and have the best runner assigned to running to the neighbors to spread the alarm.



If you have electricity assign one member to the duty of turning off the power at the main switch, which should be in an accessible place. If you use natural or artificial gas, have another member assigned to shut the gas off to reduce the hazard of explosion.



Have your fire-fighting tools where they can be reached easily in case of fire. If you are in an area where there is danger of incendiary bombs, have a bucket of sand and a long-handled shovel handy. A pail of water at the foot of the attic stairs is a good precaution, provided you see that it is filled monthly.

POST THESE INSTRUCTIONS WHERE ALL MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY CAN SEE THEM

